

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, every day in Washington State, men, women, and youth enter treatment for substance abuse and begin the road to recovery, while families seek hope and recovery in support programs and counseling; and

**WHEREAS**, treatment helps our young people succeed in school, provides children with capable and caring parents, and helps thousands of individuals get their lives back through restored health and productivity; and

**WHEREAS**, although addiction is a chronic illness that involves significant physical changes in brain function, research shows addiction treatment is as effective as treatment for other chronic medical conditions, such as diabetes and high blood pressure; and

**WHEREAS**, recognizing addiction as an illness is key to eroding social stigmas about addiction and creating a society that treats people with respect who are struggling with addiction, in recovery, or at risk for alcohol and other drug problems; and

**WHEREAS**, substance abuse and dependence is also an economic issue, with alcohol and other drug abuse in Washington State costing the state \$2.45 billion in 1996; and

**WHEREAS**, this year's theme of *National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month*, "Join the Voices of Recovery: A Call to Action," invites each of us to join the recovery community in supporting more quality treatment programs and services in an effort to greatly reduce the terrible human and economic costs of the disease of addiction.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Gary Locke, governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim September 2002 as

### *Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month*

in Washington State, and encourage all residents to promote the benefits of drug and alcohol addiction treatment and recovery and to support community treatment programs.

Signed this 21st day of August, 2002

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gary Locke".

Governor Gary Locke

